

777 twenty thousand rubles. Dr. Radde (1878) relates that he found
 422 silver vessels in a sanctuary in Khevsuria valued at fifteen hundred
 778 rubles. "Diese gefaesse bilden den hauptsaechlichsten Reichtum
 des heidnischen Tempels. Im vorliegenden Falle konnte ich sie
 wohl auf einen Worth von 1500 Rubel schaeetzen."²⁵ Concerning
 the Pshav sanctuary *Lashris jvari*, Klaproth writes (1808):²⁶ "It is
 said to contain many golden images of saints, crosses and church
 utensils, for to this place the Pshavs and Tushes bring all the
 gold and silver that fall into their hands." All this wealth is in
 the custody of the *dekanosi*, who preserve them in well-hidden pits.
 About the same sanctuary Prince Vakhushht writes (1789):²⁷ "In
 Pshavia is a church erected by Kink Lasha, where there are pre-
 served a great number of gold and silver icons (holy images),
 crosses, vessels and books. They call this church *Lashris-jvari*,
 and hold it in great veneration. There is not one Pshav or Khev-
 sur who will keep gold and silver for himself; he has no right to it,
 but must present it to the church of *Lashris-jvari*."

421 Besides the above-named vessels and utensils, the sanctuaries
 777 also possessed vineyards,²⁸ which were situated in the Georgian
 471 province of Kakheti, famous for its excellent varieties of wine.

777 The wine from these vineyards, called *kulukhi*, is used for the
 church festivals, where enormous quantities of beer and wine are
 consumed by the thirsty throats of the mountaineers. These
 drinking orgies always end in fighting and brawling.

The purchase of a vineyard or other necessary properties for
 the sanctuary was made in the following manner: the *khevis-beri*
 of one of the sanctuaries called the people together on the meeting
 grounds and announced his wish to them concerning the purchase
 of a vineyard or some other property for the sanctuary, and asked
 them to make the assessments of money among themselves for
 this purpose. The necessary funds were contributed promptly
 and willingly by the community and given to *khevis-beri*, who
 arranged the purchase.

²⁵ Radde: c. 259.

²⁶ Klaproth: a. 396.

²⁷ Vakhushht: 109-10.

²⁸ Zisserman: 233; Eristov: 99, 108.